



County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES
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ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

24 August 6, 2019

CELIA ZAVALA
 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

August 06, 2019

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
 County of Los Angeles
 383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
 500 West Temple Street
 Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**APPROVE THE INTRODUCTION AND SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION
 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND
 TITLE 2 – ADMINISTRATION, CHAPTER 2.102 – DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES
 OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CODE
 RELATED TO THE COUNTY'S GENERAL RELIEF PROGRAM
 (ALL DISTRICTS – 3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommendations will introduce and schedule for adoption an ordinance to amend various sections of the Los Angeles County Code, Title 2 – Administration, Chapter 2.102, Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), related to the General Relief (GR) program.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Introduce the attached Ordinance amending Title 2, Administration, Chapter 2.102, DPSS of the Los Angeles County Code to:
 - a. increase the personal property limits for individuals applying for GR from \$500 to \$2,000;
 - b. increase the limit of cash, negotiable instruments and bank accounts from \$50 to \$100 for a GR applicant and from \$100 to \$200 for two or more GR applicants who reside together;
 - c. exempt motor vehicles used as an individual's residence up to \$11,500;
 - d. eliminate the use of fingerprinting and require photo identification to establish or verify identity of GR applicants and recipients;

2. Introduce, waive reading, and place on the Board of Supervisors' agenda for adoption of the ordinance to amend Title 2, Administration, Chapter 2.102, DPSS of the Los Angeles County Code that implements the above recommendation.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

On February 19, 2019, Supervisor Solis and Supervisor Ridley-Thomas introduced a motion directing the DPSS and County Counsel to prepare a report with recommendations to update the asset limits for GR eligibility and the estimated fiscal impact. The report was also to include recommendations for other adjustments that could be made to the County Code that would increase the impact of the County's poverty reduction programs to include more individuals who may be currently ineligible for these programs. On February 28, 2019, DPSS submitted the report. This Board Letter seeks approval to amend the County Code as discussed herein.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions are consistent with the principles of Countywide Strategic Plan Goal #1, Making Investments that Transform Lives by increasing our focus on prevention initiatives.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Personal property value limit increases will have an estimated net impact of \$8 million annually, depending on how many eligible individuals meet the criteria of being homeless and living in a motor vehicle. Funding to cover the additional cost is included in the Department's FY 2019-20 Adopted Budget.

The Department does not anticipate a fiscal impact resulting from the elimination of fingerprinting.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

GR is the County's cash benefit program for individuals who do not qualify for other State or federal benefits. To qualify for this County funded program, there are limits on the value of personal property that an individual can own. Currently, the personal property value limit is set at \$500. The limit for cash, negotiable instruments and bank accounts is set at \$50 for an individual applying for GR and \$100 for two or more GR applicants who reside together.

As part of the County's ongoing efforts to assist residents who are indigent and experiencing homelessness, DPSS recommends amending the County Code as described below.

DPSS recommends increasing the personal property limit from \$500 to \$2,000, and increasing the cash, negotiable instruments and bank accounts limit from \$50 to \$100 for a GR applicant and from \$100 to \$200 for two or more GR applicants who reside together.

There are several exemptions to the personal property value limits including a \$4,500 limit for motor vehicles and an \$11,500 limit for a motor home or house trailer that is used as a person's residence.

Similar to the exemption limits that are currently allowed in the County Code for a motor home or a

house trailer that is used as an individual's primary residence, DPSS also recommends increasing the motor vehicle limit from \$4,500 up to \$11,500 for homeless individuals who use their vehicle as a residence.

As previously approved by the Board, DPSS also recommends amending the County Code to eliminate the use of fingerprinting and require photo identification to establish or verify the identity of GR applicants and participants.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Approval of the proposed changes will improve Los Angeles County's efforts to combat homelessness and ensure that GR remains a safety net to needy households that receive no financial support.

CONCLUSION

Upon Board approval, the Executive Officer is requested to return one adopted stamped Board Letter to the Director of DPSS.

Respectfully submitted,



ANTONIA JIMENEZ

Director

AJ:mk

c: Chief Executive Office
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel